

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-35 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 36-55 as follows:

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material for use in an article of clothing, prepared by a manufacturing process of: providing a first moisture-absorbing heat generating fiber that comprises a crosslinked acrylic fiber prepared by crosslinking with a nitrogen containing compound and by hydrolysis of uncrosslinked residues; providing a second heat retaining fiber or feather; drying the first fiber to an inherent minimum moisture content; and homogeneously blending the first fiber with the second fiber or feather in a weight ratio of between 1 to 9 and 4 to 6 while the first fiber is at its inherent minimum moisture content.

37. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 36, wherein feather is blended as the second heat-retaining fiber.

38. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 37, wherein the feather is down.

39. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 36, wherein drying of the first fiber occurs at a minimum temperature of one hundred degrees centigrade.

40. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 36, wherein drying of the first fiber occurs by heating or with hot air in a drying furnace and then cooling the fiber inside of the drying furnace with dry air.

41. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 40, wherein the drying step within the furnace occurs by placing the fiber into the furnace, heating, and then substituting the inside of the drying furnace with dry air.

42. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 36, wherein prior to homogeneously blending the first fiber and the second fiber or feather, the first fiber is cut into lengths of 3 to 15 mm.

43. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 36, wherein the first fiber comprises a polyacrylate-series heat generating fiber.

44. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 36, wherein the first fiber is compressed to reduce its surface area so as to inhibit increase of its moisture absorbing capacity during manufacture prior to homogeneously blending the first fiber with the second fiber or feather.

45. (New) An article of clothing comprising a moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 36.

46. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material for use in an article of clothing, prepared by a manufacturing process of:
providing a first moisture-absorbing heat generating fiber that comprises a crosslinked acrylic fiber prepared by crosslinking with a nitrogen containing compound and by hydrolysis of uncrosslinked residues; providing a second heat retaining fiber or feather;

allowing the first fiber to absorb moisture; and homogeneously blending the wet first fiber with the second fiber or feather in a weight ratio of between 1 to 9 and 4 to 6 during a wet process.

47. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 46, wherein feather is blended as the second heat-retaining fiber.

48. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 46, wherein the first fiber and the second fiber or feather are humidified to their inherent maximum moisture contents prior to blending.

49. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 46, wherein humidification of the first fiber occurs by complete immersion in water.

50. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 47, wherein the feather is washed in water and the first fiber is blended into the feather washing water.

51. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 50, wherein a non-cationic dispersant is added to facilitate homogeneous blending.

52. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 46, wherein prior to homogeneously blending the first fiber and the second fiber or feather, the first fiber is cut into lengths of 3 to 15 mm.

53. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 46, wherein sheep wool is blended as the heat-retaining fiber.

54. (New) An article of clothing comprising a moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material as described in claim 46.

55. (New) A moisture-absorbent/releasable heat generating material for use in an article of clothing, prepared by a manufacturing process of:

providing a dried, pulverized first moisture-absorbing heat generating fiber that comprises a crosslinked acrylic fiber prepared by crosslinking with a nitrogen containing compound and by hydrolysis of uncrosslinked residues; providing a second heat retaining fiber or feather; and depositing or filling in gaps in the second heat retaining fiber or feather with the pulverized first moisture-absorbing heat generating fiber by static electricity.

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